



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES)
Program Director for Biochemical Engineering
Employment Opportunity--Dear Colleague Letter

Date: October 22, 2003

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES) announces a nationwide search for a Program Director for the Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). *The desired starting date for the position is August 2004.*

The ***Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology Program*** supports research that links the expertise of engineering with the life sciences in order to provide a fundamental basis for the economical manufacturing of substances of biological origin. Projects are supported that utilize microorganisms for the transformation of organic raw materials (biomass) into useful products. Fermentation and recombinant DNA processes are important technologies to this program. Research on metabolic engineering, tissue engineering and separation and purification processes, are major areas of activity. Other active research areas include, but are not limited to: cell culture systems; biosensor development; bioreactor design; monitoring, optimization, and control methods; and process integration and design.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in biochemical engineering, biotechnology, or related discipline, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. Also desirable is knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of associate professor or higher. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs, as well as in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations. Periodic assignments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made. We are particularly interested in attracting women and underrepresented minority candidates to these positions.

The Program Director position recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **Visiting Scientist Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from

their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as Federal employees. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for up to one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.
- **Temporary Excepted Service Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers and Educators" on the NSF website at www.nsf.gov/jobs.

Applications and questions concerning Program Director positions should be directed to:

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QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.***